

Bayou Macon WMA

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Compartment 11 Rx

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Area Description

Bayou Macon WMA is located in East Carroll Parish approximately 5 miles east of Oak Grove, Louisiana. Compartment 11 encompasses approximately 872 acres of bottomland hardwoods and is located in Sections 1 and 12 of T21N, R11E. The boundaries of compartment 11 are Highway 2 to the north, Brushy Bayou to the east, and Buck Bayou to the west. The southern boundary is the adjoining compartment 10. The natural area within Compartment 11 consists of 199 acres located on the southern end of the compartment.

Current Conditions

Compartment 11 has a basal area of 105 ft² and a stocking of 98 trees per acre. The average tree diameter is 13.6 inches. Total volumes per acre were calculated to be 13.678 cords of pulpwood and 1.967 DMBF of sawtimber.

Forest Types

There are several forest types that currently make up the forest composition in compartment 11. These include Nuttall Oak-Overcup Oak (347 acres), Elm-Ash-Sugarberry-Nuttall Oak (467 acres), and Elm-Ash-Sugarberry (55 Acres).

The Nuttall Oak-Overcup Oak (NO-OC) type is found on some of the lower areas of compartment 11. Other overstory species that can be found in this forest type include green ash, sweetgum, persimmon, black locust, black willow, red maple, boxelder, and bald cypress. The midstory is comprised of sugarberry, green ash, deciduous holly, swamp dogwood, and bitter pecan, ranging from moderate to heavy coverage. Understory vegetation is minimal due to low light conditions, except in areas where tree fall gaps occur. Where canopy gaps exist, understory species found consist of *Rubus* spp., greenbrier, honeysuckle, ladies eardrop, trumpet creeper, Virginia creeper, poison ivy, and rattan.

The Elm-Ash-Sugarberry-Nuttall Oak (EAS-NO) forest type consists primarily of American elm, green ash, and sugarberry. Nuttall oak is present at different concentrations ranging from 20% to 50% of the overstory. Associates also include baldcypress, honeylocust, and persimmon. The midstory is comprised of sugarberry, green ash, deciduous holly, and swamp dogwood, ranging from moderate to heavy coverage. Understory vegetation is minimal due to low light conditions.

The Elm-Ash-Sugarberry (EAS) forest type is dominated by sugarberry (approx. 90%). Green ash, overcup oak, bitter pecan, boxelder, baldcypress, honeylocust and persimmon are found in small concentrations. Similar to the two aforementioned forest types, the midstory is comprised of sugarberry, green ash, deciduous holly, and swamp dogwood with moderate to heavy coverage. Understory vegetation is minimal due to shading from the overstory and midstory.

Soil

The primary soil type present in compartment 11 is Sharkey Clay. This soil is poorly drained, highly fertile, and exhibits very high shrink/swell potential. The surface layer is loamy or clayey, with clayed subsoil that causes water movement through the soil to be slow. These conditions cause an abundance of surface water during heavy rain events and shape the forest type in this compartment.

Wildlife

Bayou Macon WMA provides habitat for white-tail deer, wild turkey, black bear, migrant and resident birds, small mammals, and an assortment of herpetofauna. Due to the near closed canopy state of much of the compartment there is limited browse and escape cover available for wildlife. The structural diversity of the stand is also limited due to the homogeneous midstory & underdeveloped understory. The proposed silvicultural treatment will improve habitat components which are essential to wildlife within compartment 11.

Objectives

- Increase species diversity
- Increase structural diversity
- Improve forest vigor and health
- Promote regeneration of desirable species
- Increase long-term wildlife habitat and mast production
- Increase snag density & down woody debris

Methods

Individual / Group Selection (597 ac)

- Cut trees marked with two slashes of **blue** paint, one at eye level and one on the stump at ground level
- Group selection harvest units one to five acres in size scattered throughout treatment area
- Individual selection thinning between groups
- Treatment boundaries marked with **orange** paint

Concerns

- Maintain access and road conditions on the WMA during harvesting operations
- Limit soil disturbance

Treatment

To enhance the wildlife habitat within compartment 11 approximately 597 acres will be treated to accomplish habitat objectives. The marked trees should vary in diameter and condition to promote structural diversity within the stand. Species selection should also vary to ensure that diversity is promoted. This harvest will allow much needed light to reach the forest floor to establish escape cover and nesting habitat for wildlife. Group harvest units are proposed to create early successional habitat and stimulating the growth of herbaceous vegetation. This method will promote regeneration of desirable tree species and contribute to a more structurally complex stand. Wildlife diversity will also be enhanced by creating habitat for early successional to mid-successional wildlife species.

Logging Requirements

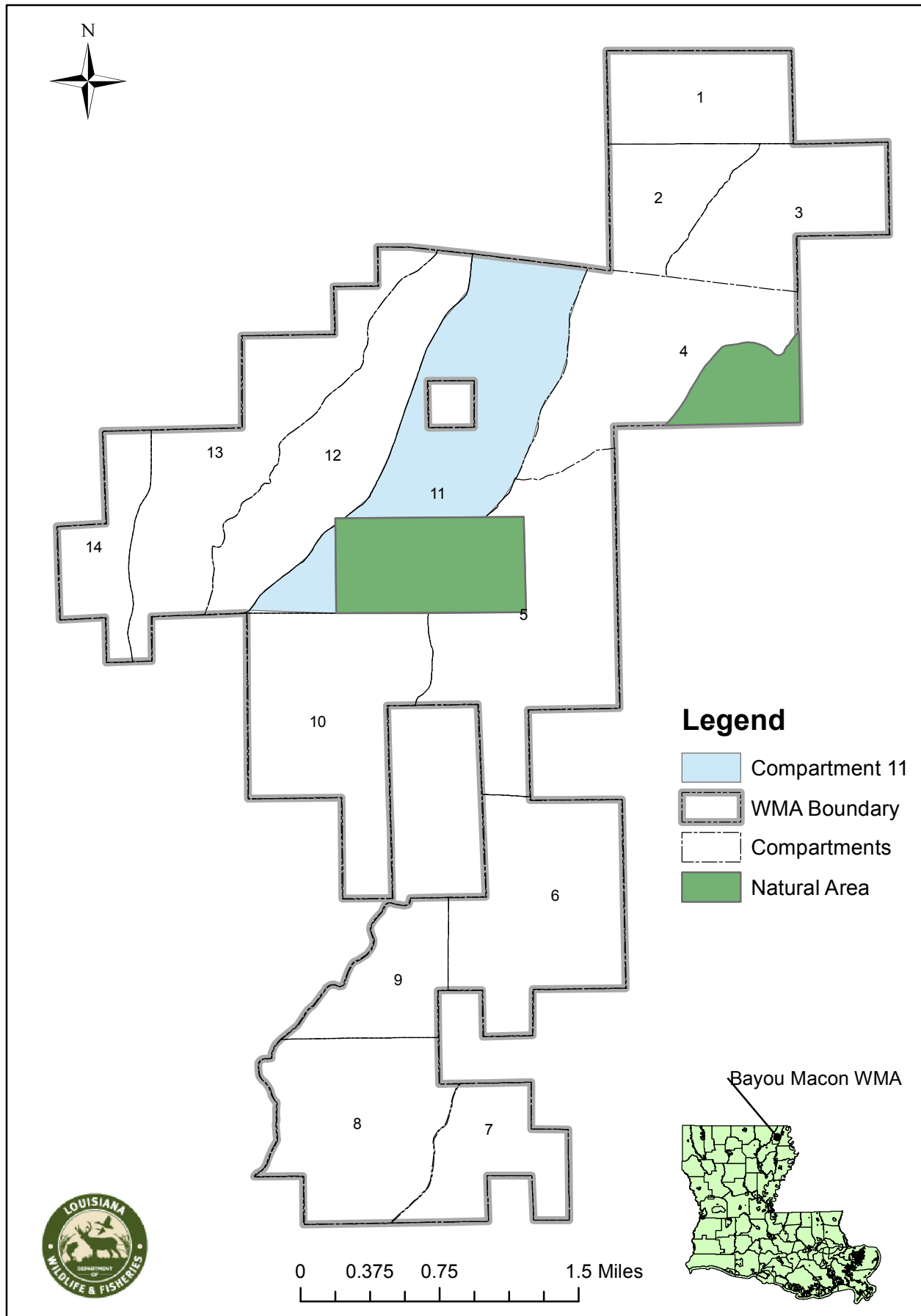
- No harvesting during wet periods
- No harvesting during firearm seasons for white-tailed deer or spring turkey season
- All stems topped at point of felling
- Maximum 40' log skid length
- Logging slash should be redistributed throughout treatment area
- Logging roads and sets kept to a minimum
- Louisiana BMP guidelines should be followed at all times
- Limit soil disturbance

Additional Entry Requirements

- Re-entry as necessary to monitor stand development

Bayou Macon WMA

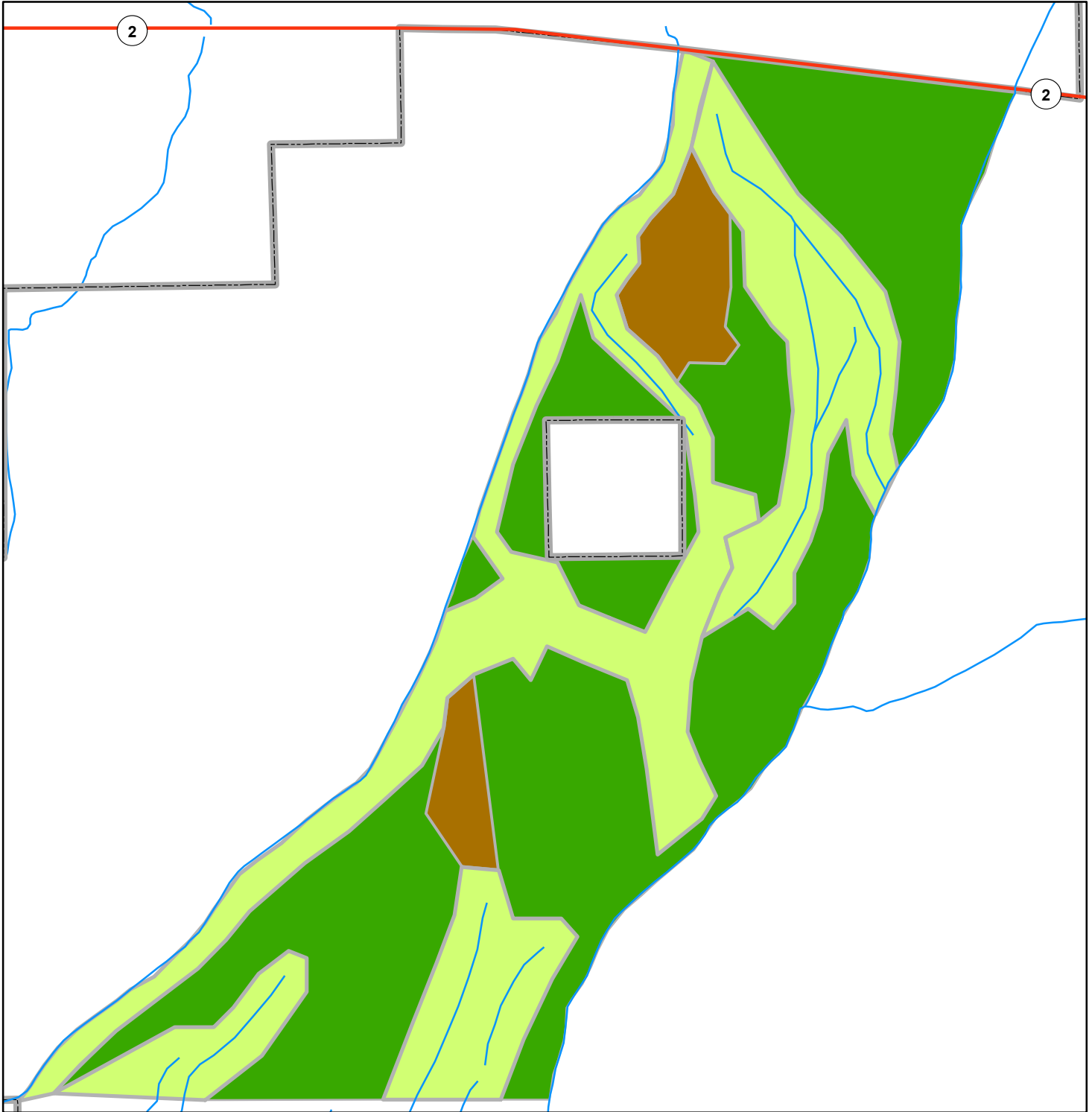
Map 1



Forest Type

Bayou Macon WMA

Map 2



Legend



WMA Boundary

Hwy 2

Bayou



Nuttall/ OvercupOak (347 Acres)

Nuttall/ Elm/ Sugarberry (467 Acres)

Elm/ GreenAsh/ Sugarberry (55 Acres)

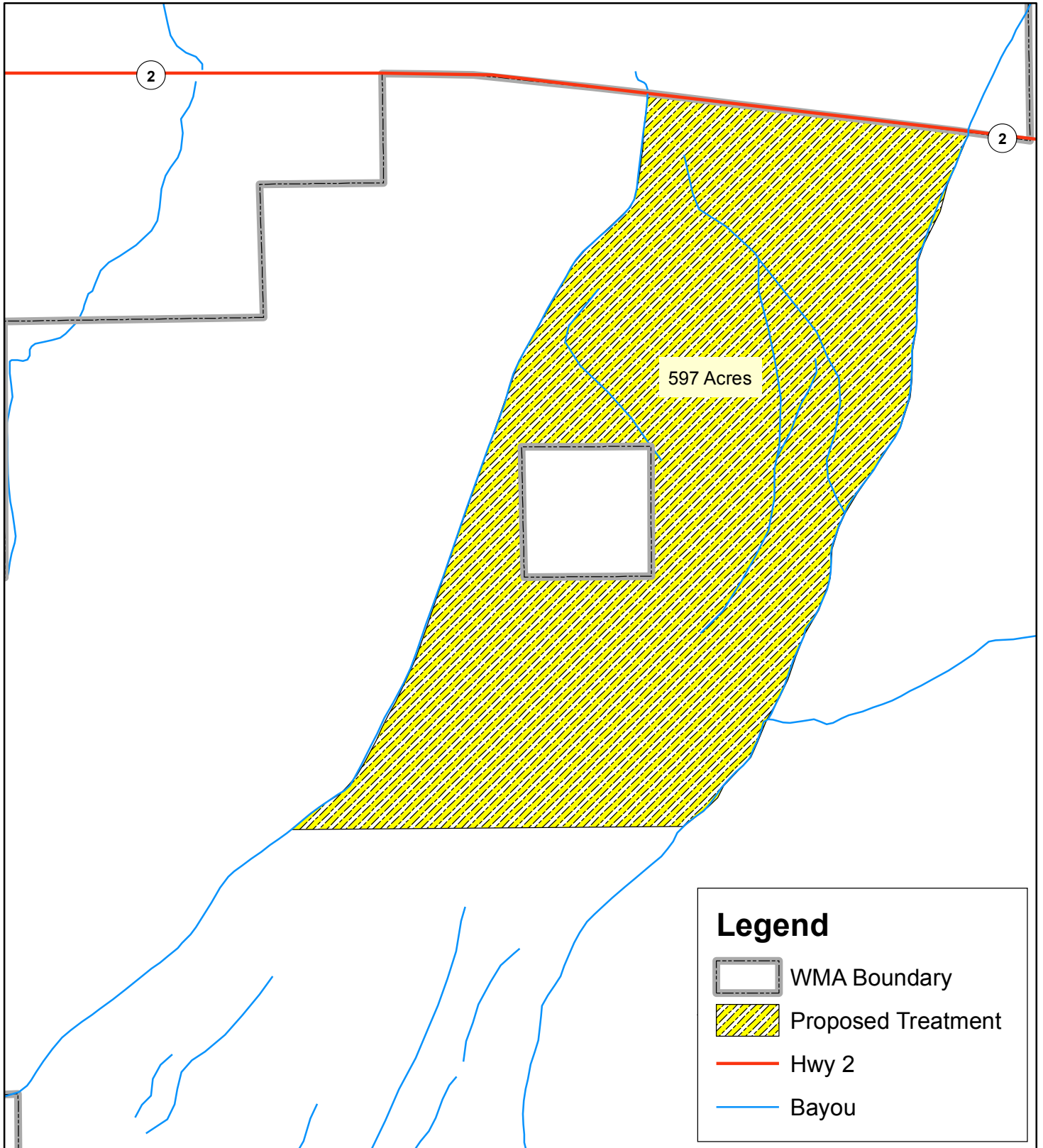
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Proposed Treatment

Bayou Macon WMA

Map 3



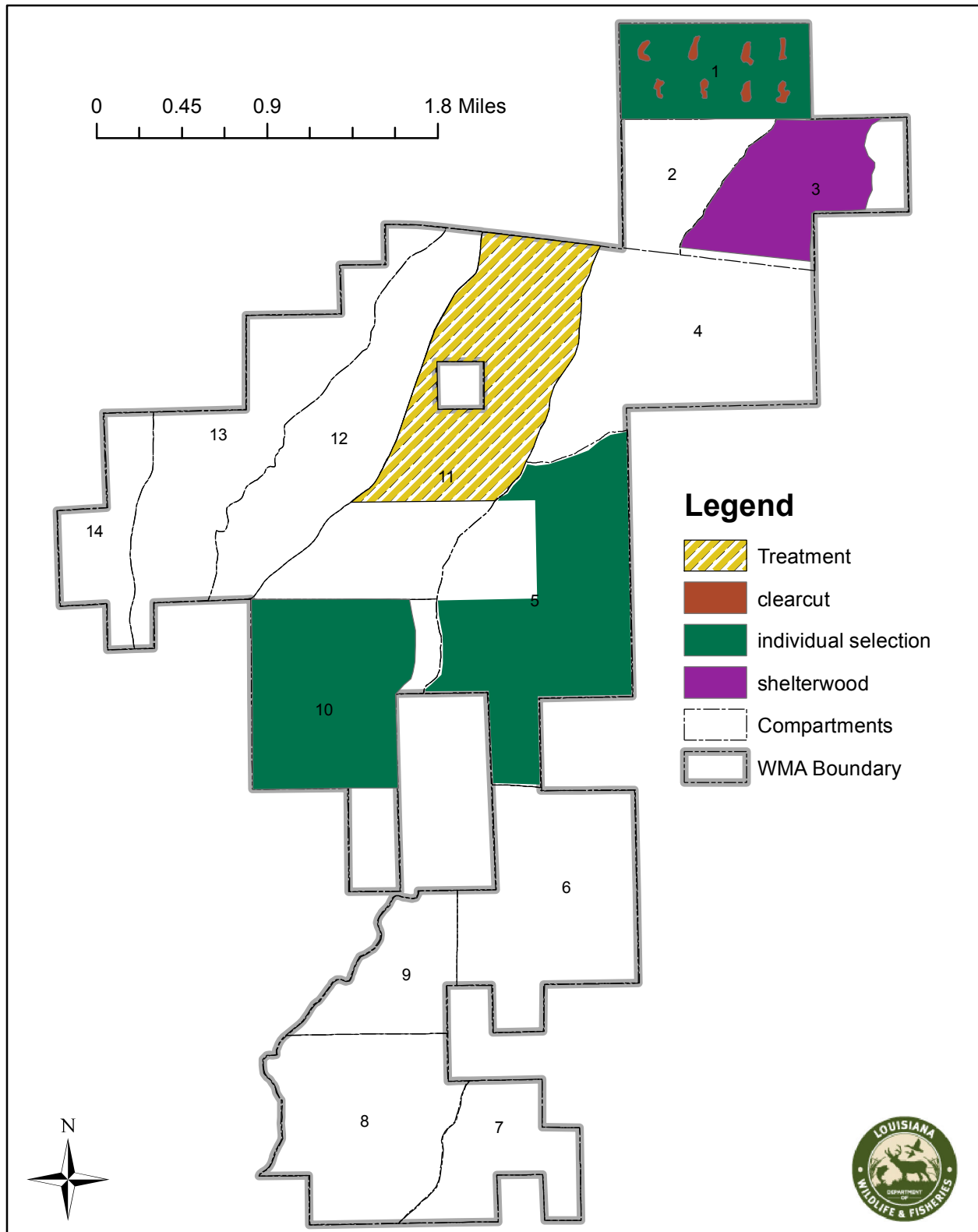
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Adjacent Treatments

Bayou Macon WMA

Map 4



Sale #	Treatment	Acres	Date	Comments	Compartment
24-1-192	Individual Selection	278	1992	Clearings within unit	1
24-1-192	Clearcut	20	1992	Clearings	1
24-2-197	Individual Selection	520	1998	Supplemental planting 1998	10
24-3-102	Shelterwood	294	2003	Leave tree mark	3
24-4-114	Individual Selection	654	2015	Painted cut trees	5
24-5-115	Individual Selection	597		Proposed Treatment	11